Aldersgate United Methodist Church

#587 **The GatePost** - The Monthly Newsletter of Aldersgate UMC February 1, 2018

In this issue:

AUMC Contacts	Pg 2
Pastor's Page Small Groups	Pg 3
Prayers / Prayer Shawl BeFrienders / GriefShare	Pg 4
Environmental Ministries	Pg 5
Youth News	Pg 6
Family Ministries	Pg 7
Mission/Outreach	Pgs 8, 9
Opportunities & Events	Pgs 10, 11

FEBRUARY at ALDERSGATE

Sunday, February 4
"Souper Bowl" Sunday,
Commitment Sunday
Worship at 9am -
Jesus Walks on Water
Holy Communion
Consecration of Pledge Cards
Food Collection for Families Forward
Uncommon Fellowship Small Groups

Sunday, February 11
Scouting Sunday
Family Worship at 9am -
The Four Friends
Family Promise Hosting Week Begins
Environmental Ministries
after worship in the Library
Zero Gravity (4th & 5th Graders),
5:30pm in Room 8

Tuesday, February 13
Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper at 6pm
in the Fellowship Hall
Love offering collected for
Youth Mission Trips and
Camperships

Wednesday, February 14
Ash Wednesday
Service at 7pm in the Sanctuary -
Imposition of Ashes

Sunday, February 18
First Sunday in Lent
Worship at 9am -
Jesus Calms the Storm
Food Collection for Sunday Suppers
Easter Butterfly Sales
on the Patio after Worship
Uncommon Fellowship
Sunday Suppers at 5:30pm
at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Sunday, February 25
Second Sunday in Lent
Worship at 9am -
Jarius' Daughter
Easter Butterfly Sales
on the Patio after Worship
Uncommon Fellowship

Ministerial Staff:

Rev. Ken Suhr—*Senior Pastor*
RevKen@aumctustin.org
Rev. Karin Ellis—*Associate Pastor*
RevKarin@aumctustin.org

Ministry Support Staff:

Multi-Media & Sound— Doug Bell.....Sound@aumctustin.org
Financial Secretary— Judy Dickinson.....FinancialSecretary@aumctustin.org
Accompanist— Anna Ferraro ..... Annapianaorgana@aol.com
Music Ministry Director— Lynn Chavdarov.....Music@aumctustin.org
Church Administrator— Jennifer Kelly .....Admin@aumctustin.org
Financial Administrator— Heidi Perez..... FinanceAdmin@aumctustin.org
Youth Director— Scott Wilmoth .....Youth@aumctustin.org
Children's Education Director— Kimberly Wilmoth..... Families@aumctustin.org

Aldersgate Children's Center

Jackie Kush — *Children's Center Director*
Aldersgatecc @earthlink.net

The ***GatePost*** is published **monthly** by Aldersgate United Methodist Church
Gatepost Editor: **Jennifer Kelly**
Production Team: **Pat Lauderdale, Claudette Fry, Marilyn Surbey, Shirley Fleck**
Materials for consideration for publication should be forwarded to:
Aldersgate United Methodist Church Attn: GatePost
1201 Irvine Boulevard, Tustin, CA 92780 or
E-mail: Admin@aumctustin.org
Articles Due to the Editor: Tuesday, February 20
Next Issue *MAILED* Tuesday, February 27

Fun Facts about our Staff

Do you know who?
* Travels to faraway places for work. Places include Tokyo, Amsterdam, Charleston, St. Louis, Atlanta, and Seattle to name a few.
* Was told, when he married, that he was in a mixed marriage. The reason? Because his wife was Catholic!!

Answer: Doug Bell, Sound and Multi Media Director

Do you know who:
* Plays the French horn.
* Graduated 8th in her high school class.
* Is the 5th of 6 children.
* Sang "You've Got a Friend" in a duet at graduation.

Answer: Lynn Chavdarov, Music Ministry Director

Do you know who?
* Has worked here for one year.
* Worked at ACC for 11 years.
* Has a family of 4 children: all young adults in their 20s.
* Begins work at 4:30 AM.
* When asked what he does in his free time: Work, work, work!

Answer: Ezequiel Alvarado, Custodian

Do you know who?
* Used to go dirt bike racing.
* Had a bobcat named Buzzsaw for a pet for 18 years.
* Was a car collector and owned a 1965 AC Cobra that held the quarter mile speed record.

Answer: Judy Dickinson, Financial Secretary

This year Lent begins on Feb. 14 (that's right- Valentine's Day!). *Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word, lencten, which means "spring." The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians.* (The United Methodist Book of Worship) It is an important time in the church as we prepare ourselves for the Easter story. It is a time of walking with Jesus as he journeys to Jerusalem during his final days. It is a time of prayer, reflection, and preparation.

During the season of Lent, we will be exploring the stories of Jesus in worship, children's Sunday School, youth Bible Study, and Uncommon Fellowship Groups. Throughout the month of February we will look at stories of Jesus that help us answer the question, "Who is this Son of God?" The month of March will bring more stories of Jesus, this time hearing how others in the Bible describe him. It will hopefully be a time for all of us to examine our own understanding of Christ and what place he has in our lives.

In her poem, "The Holy in the Ordinary," Ann Weems writes,

Holy is the time and holy is this place,
and there are holy things that must be said.
Let us say to one another what our souls whisper…
O Holy One, cast your tent among us;
come into our ordinary lives and bless the living!

Lent is the time to find the holy in the ordinary, to remember who Christ is for us, and then recognize him among us. I hope and pray this season of Lent will be fruitful for you. I hope you will join us in worship, and find community in a small group. I hope you will connect with God in new ways, grow in your understanding of Christ, and find a new way to serve someone in the community. May you have a blessed, holy Lent!

Blessings,

Pastor Karin

Uncommon Fellowship Small Groups

Start February 4

Join your Aldersgate family in small group fellowship. Experience the grace, love and hope of our Lord through prayer and discussion.

Day	Time	Location	Leader
Sunday	10:15am	Jr. High Room	Cathy Standiford
Sunday	10:15am	Fireside Room	Marlin Clark
Tuesday	1:00pm	Church Library	Pastor Karin Ellis
Tuesday	6:30pm	Fergin Home	Mike Fergin
Friday	8:00am	Room 6	Men's Group

If you need prayers for yourself, a family member or a friend, you are invited to contact:

The Church Office
at (714) 544-3653.

All prayer requests are given to the pastors and office staff, who pray together weekly. Members of the prayer chain pray specifically for those who ask for prayers for themselves and/or others. If you are interested in becoming a member of the prayer chain, please contact the church office.

Let us support you in prayer!

GRIEF SHARE®

A new 13-week session of Grief Share will begin on January 7, 2018. The group meets on Sundays at 2:30pm in the Church Library.

Contact the Church Office at (714) 544-3653 or Admin@aumctustin.org for more information.

Prayer Shawl Ministry...

...meets on the **1st and 3rd** Wednesdays **from 3pm to 5pm in the Fireside Room.** If you are interested in being part of this important and meaningful ministry, please feel free to attend a meeting—even if you have no experience, there are knitters and crocheters willing to help those that are just getting started. Please feel free to contact the Church Office if you have any questions or need further information about the group.

BeFriender Ministers

BEFRIENDER MINISTRY
A Listening Presence

The BeFriender ministry of Aldersgate is a listening presence. This ministry is not a ministry of "doing", but of "being,"--being present and listening quietly. Everyone is, at times, on a difficult journey and needs a caring companion who will listen, empathize, and be a reminder of a caring, faith community. All requests and meetings are confidential. This ministry comes under the umbrella of the Care and Nurture team. If you are interested, or know of someone who might be, do not hesitate to contact the church Office.

Environmental Ministries

Joyce Stenberg—EM Member

2018 is "The Year of the Bird"

As I walked through my neighborhood park on the first day of this new year, enjoying the lovely California winter sunshine, I was delighted by the bounty of birdsong surrounding me- such an amazing variety of "joyful noise!" David Rothenberg, a New Jersey Institute of Technology professor, says that birds sing "because they can and because they must…the form is much more than function. Nature is full of beauty, and of music." I am not very good at identifying most of the beautiful birds that make the music, but I still love to listen to their songs, and I am thrilled when I get a glimpse of these fascinating little miracles of God's creation.

I had recently joined The National Audubon Society, whose mission is to "protect birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow, throughout the Americas, using science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation (www.audubon.org)," So when our January 2018 National Geographic arrived in the mail, I was excited to read that this issue's title was "Why Birds Matter" and to learn that National Geographic is calling 2018 the Year of the Bird. From their website, I learned why:

(Adapted from: **https://www.nationalgeographic.org/projects/year-of-the-bird**.)
In 2018, we mark the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the most powerful and important bird-protection law ever passed. In honor of this milestone, nature lovers around the world are joining forces with National Geographic, National Audubon Society, BirdLife International, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, to celebrate the "Year of the Bird." You too can join this campaign, dedicated to celebrating and protecting birds and their habitats today and for the next hundred years.

As Thomas E. Lovejoy, Tropical Conservation Biologist and National Geographic Fellow, says:

"If you take care of the birds, you take care of most of the big environmental problems in the world". So like the migratory robin, joining billions of other birds on an annual movement, we're calling on you to join the movement to **#BirdYourWorld** by starting with these simple considerations:

- **Don't take** bird migration for granted.
- **Next time you see that robin**, a hummingbird, a crane, a hawk—any migratory bird—spare a thought for its epic and testing journey across the globe, and what it sees from up high in the sky.
- **Think about people** from other countries who will be watching the very same bird in just a few weeks' time.
- **Think about the work** being done to protect habitat along the bird's migratory flyway, all adding pieces to The Great Migratory Bird Jigsaw Puzzle.
- **Take the Pledge at www.birdyourworld.com**; And I would add –
- **Get Audubon in Your Inbox**; they will send you the latest in bird conservation and news. (**www.audubon.org**)
- **Pray**. From Carol Adams' Prayers for Animals: "Create within me the ability to greet each day like your birds. And to care for animals as you would, God, you who would gather us all within your outstretched wings."(**www.spiritualityandpractice.com**)

Our next meeting is Feb. 11, 10:15am, in the Church Library. Please join us!

Youth News!

Scott Wilmoth - Youth Director

Greetings,

The youth had an incredible month of January! We continued to build relationships with God and each other through different experiences. Our Sunday morning Bible studies have been well attended and fun as we have been following Pastor Ken's sermon series on "What is God Like?". It's a challenge to make the Bible come alive and be relevant in the lives of youth, but it's so worth it to watch them grow in their knowledge of scripture and in their faith.

Speaking of growing in faith, our confirmation class is going well, too. We meet each Wednesday, and this past month we studied our Methodist background and history. These youth ask thoughtful questions and truly have a desire to learn about God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, and Methodism so far. Their mentors are incredible, as well. We've had great times together, and we look forward to more in the coming months.

On Sunday evenings we started the new year with a program on resolutions, and we came up with some that are still working. We also made some awesome collages out of the many old pictures we have in the room. It was great going over old memories and seeing how people have changed. We served close to 200 lunches to those in need in Santa Ana, and we enjoyed God's creation on a beautiful day at the Little Corona tide pools.

This month we will go on a winter retreat with four other Methodist churches which we are looking forward to. Our mission trips are filling up, and we are excited about being the hands of Christ to those in need, and applications to be on a summer camp staff are available, too. Thank you so much to the church for your constant love and support! We truly feel it and appreciate it! Amen!

Blessings,
Scott Wilmoth, Youth Director

Family Ministries

Kim Wilmoth - Children's Education Director

It's never too late to get yourself ready for Vacation Bible school! Even though Vacation Bible School is June 25-29, preparations for VBS begins now! We are looking for some people that can help make VBS the best possible week that it can be!

We are holding a job fair in May, but are currently looking for:

◊ A Preschool leader who will help organize the preschool part of VBS. I will help you as we look at the curriculum and plan fun, appropriate activities for our youngest participants.

◊ A craft leader who will help look at the curriculum and plan crafts for the participants.

◊ Set builders who can help put together our amazing VBS set!

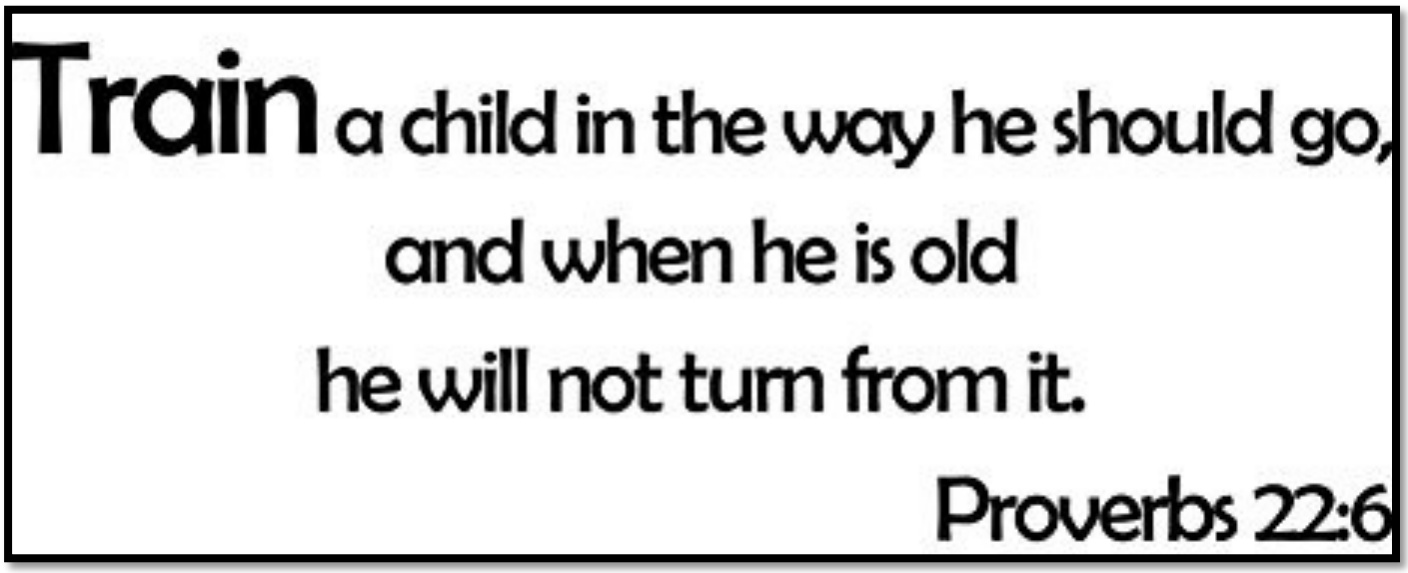
If you feel a calling towards any of these things, please contact Kim Wilmoth—families@aumctustin.org.

Sunday School in Mission

Each quarter our Sunday school classes focus on a mission project. We travel the world to learn about God and what God is doing all over the world through new friends and adventures!

Why travel around the world? Deep Blue Kids Learn & Serve teaches the kids in your church and community about God and what it means to be a follower of Jesus through Bible stories and opportunities to serve as disciples in the classroom, the local community, and the world. Currently we are focusing on ZOE! How perfectly did that align with our church focus? Children will learn about life in Kenya and have an opportunity to support real kids through the ZOE organization, now operating in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Rwanda, Malawi, Liberia, India, and Guatemala.

We will be using ZOE blessing boxes to collect offerings to support the program. During Lent, we will have a calendar and the box to reflect and learn more about our friends in Rwanda.



MISSION OUTREACH

The mission of the Mission/Outreach Team is to connect Aldersgate congregants with our neighbors in need, both near and far, by providing opportunities for ministry through our support and strength so that God's presence and unconditional love may be experienced.

UMCOR Sunday, March 11, 2018

(adapted from UMCOR's website)

UMCOR Sunday donations cover all UMCOR's administrative costs, so 100% of your donations to UMCOR the rest of the year go directly to relief efforts around the world.

When disaster strikes around the globe - Haiti's 2010 earthquake; Typhoon Haiyan in 2013; the 2017 Hurricanes Nate and Harvey in the US; California wildfires in 2017 and recent flooding - so

many of us who watch the drama unfold on our living room televisions feel entirely helpless. How could any one person make a difference in the wake of such widespread devastation? **As responders around the globe scramble to help survivors, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR, is prepared to act.**

Since 1940, when UMCOR's forerunner was established to meet the needs of those suffering overseas at the onset of World War II, we've continued to respond to those in desperate need—today throughout more than eighty countries around the world. **The response of UMCOR isn't something "they" do; it's something "we" do**.

When you give, you equip Christ's Body to serve in his name. That's because your generous giving to **UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church**, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion or gender—together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.

Because you give, the United Methodist Church's compassionate response to human suffering continues today:

- When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, we responded
- When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded
- When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded
- When hurricanes, fires, and floods ravaged the United States, we responded
- As floods continue to shatter lives in California, we are responding
- And when the next mass crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond

UMCOR will be able to offer aid in Jesus' name to those who suffer because United Methodists give through UMCOR Sunday. In fact, it's your generous giving that allows us to respond when disaster strikes. **Not "they." We!** When we meet the needs of those who suffer, we actually minister to Jesus, who said, *"I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me."* (Mt. 25:35-36, CEB) **As we respond, we recognize Jesus in those who are reeling in the wake of disaster.**

There will be an UMCOR Sunday offering envelope in our March 11 bulletin for your donations. Donations on this one Sunday fund UMCOR's operating costs for the year.

*After the service, there also will be an opportunity for you to help fill **UMCOR Hygiene Kits**. These kits will contain extra supplies and purchased supplies made possible by your donations to Fall Fest. Through your generosity, Missions/ Outreach was also able to assemble several **Flood Buckets.** All of these kits and buckets, plus 30 hygiene kits donated by Elizabeth Circle, will be delivered to devastated areas in California, or to the UMCOR West warehouse in Utah and then distributed to areas in need. **This is a hands-on way to love our neighbor, as Jesus commanded. Thank you for your prayerful generosity and support!***

MISSION OUTREACH

MEN'S & WOMEN'S CLOTHING and ACCESSORIES DRIVE

February 11 and 18

Providing workforce readiness services in an atmosphere of dignity, Working Wardrobes has changed the lives of nearly 95,000 men, women, veterans, and young adults overcoming difficult challenges – alcohol and substance abuse, domestic violence, incarceration, homelessness, catastrophic illness, and traumatic financial loss. Their clients are referred to them from more than 60 programs throughout Southern California.

Here's what YOU can do to help. Donate men and women's **clothing, shoes, belts, purses and jewelry**! You can drop off your donations on two Sundays (February 11 and 18). The drop-off location will be at our Welcome Center next to the Children's Center.

If you haven't used it in a year . . .Donate it to someone who will use it

Check out Working Wardrobe's website at **www.workingwardrobes.org**

Save the Dates!

2018 Family Promise Hosting Dates:

- Sunday, February 11 through Sunday, February 18 , 2018
- Sunday, May 6, through Sunday, May 13, 2018
- Sunday, July 15, through Sunday, July 22, 2018
- Sunday, December 2, through Sunday, December 9, 2018

Look for information on signing up to volunteer in Sunday bulletins, newsletters and e-Connections or contact the church office.

The mission of Family Promise is to help homeless and low-income *families* achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response. Thank you for your commitment to this important outreach!

Manna Bags

Remember that manna bags are available to distribute to those who need assistance. You can pick them up in the Sanctuary or by the Connection Center on Sunday mornings or in the church office on weekdays during office hours.

In addition to sustenance, the bags also contain lists of other places that offer assistance, including a flyer for Sunday Suppers!

These are great to keep in your car for the occasions that you are out and about and may see someone that could benefit from a bag of food.

Opportunities and Events

Convergence – Relationships – CPR/AED/First Aid Training

by Chia-Ying Wang

"Convergence" and "relationships" are words from Pastor Ken's and Pastor Karin's sermons that seem to echo repeatedly for me. We might find ourselves in a situation – a planned or unplanned convergence – in which we and our skills are needed to help someone or even to help save someone's life.

Saving a life can mean just that, the awesome and selfless gift of saving a person's life. Saving a life can potentially mean even more, like saving relationships – the relationships of a parent and child, of siblings, of a grandparent and grandchild, of friends, of a helper and those s/he helps, and the list goes on.

Please consider attending a morning session, led by Heart-to-Heart CPR and First Aid's founder, Jack Griswold. Age 12 and up are welcome, as are age 8 and up with an adult to assist. Advance registration is recommended.

Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018
Place: AUMC Fellowship Hall
Time:

Sign-In	7:30-8:00 AM
PR/AED Certification ($25 - cash only)	8:00- 9:30 AM
First Aid Certification ($25 - cash only)	9:30-10:30 AM
	(if First Aid only, come at 9:15 AM)

To sign up, please stop by the table on the patio after morning worship on **January 14 and 28 or February 4 and 11** call the church office (714) 544-3653. If you want a copy of the training workbook in advance of the session, please pay in-full (cash only) when you register. Hope to see you there!

CHILDREN'S CENTER NEWS!

February Fundraiser: Cause An Effect

Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support Aldersgate Children's Center. Come to Chipotle Mexican Grill at 13348 Newport Ave. in Tustin on Monday, February 12th between 4:00pm and 8:00pm. Bring your flyer or tell the cashier you're supporting Aldersgate Children's Center. Chipotle will donate 50% of your entire purchase to help support the Children's Center! Simply present the Chipotle flyer available at the Children's Center Office. See you there! Dine-In or Take-Out.

Thank you Fall Fest Committee! On behalf of the Children's Center we are grateful for your generous monetary contribution towards our scholarship fund and other needs. These funds are dedicated to quality care the Children's Center provides to our ACC families. Also, families in our community that are in need of financial assistance with enrollment. God Bless You!

Opportunities and Events

Our **Thank Goodness It's Wednesday** night dinners are every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in providing a meal on a Wednesday, please contact Barbara Kuntz or the church office. All your expenses will be reimbursed.

Please join us for great food and fellowship! $5 per person and $15 maximum per family.

Elizabeth Circle is meeting on Monday, February 5 at 6:45pm in the Fellowship Hall. The theme is "Rejoicing in Fellowship."

Hope Circle, on Wednesday, February 21, at 9:30 in the Fireside Room, will be entertained with historical stories about Orange County as gleaned through interviews with people who remembered the olden days. The topic will be Orange County Stories immediately following a light breakfast. You are invited to join us at 9:30 am for a bite to eat and listen to some fascinating stories of days gone by. Hope to see you there.

Joyful Noise Children's Choir

The Children's Choir practices on Sundays after worship in the Choir Room. The choir is open to all children from Kindergarten through 5th grade. Come make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord!

Psalm 96 Youth Choir

The Youth Choir meets in the Choir Room on Sundays from 4:30pm to 5:30pm, before Youth Group. The choir is open to all youth from 6th through 12th grade. Yes, "Sing to the Lord a new song…"

Chancel Choir Wants YOU!

Like to sing but haven't tried out the Chancel Choir yet? This is your chance to take us for a test drive!

Chancel Choir is the adult choir that sings in worship 3 Sundays each month September through June. Once or twice a year we present a larger musical work This is the part where you get to dip your toes in to test the waters:

- Our choir retreat is Saturday, Feb. 10 in the Choir Room at AUMC. We'll be meeting 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. to snack, fellowship and work on our Good Friday cantata, which will be presented on (you guessed it!) Good Friday, March 29th at the 7:00 p.m. service.
- We also rehearse Thursday evenings in the Choir Room 7:30 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.
- You can come join us for just the cantata rehearsals and sing with us then, or you can come to Thursday night rehearsals (the first half) and just sing with us on Sunday mornings, or (drum roll, please!) you can just jump in and sing with us for everything! We're fun, we're friendly, and we're all learning our music together – so you don't have to read music or even know what part you sing, because we are here to help!

So what do you say?! Drop in on a Thursday evening or – even better – come to our retreat at AUMC on Saturday, Feb. 10th, to give the cantata a whirl. And yes, we will have snacks that morning, so you get another yummy incentive to give us a try!

For more information, contact Choir Director Lynn Chavdarov (music@aumctustin.org). We look forward to seeing you soon!

P.S. – Can't carry a tune? How about ringing a bell?? The Handbell Choir is always looking for ringers. Contact Lynn Chavdarov for more information.

ALDERSGATE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1201 Irvine Boulevard * Tustin CA 92780

Phone: 714.544.3653 Fax: 714.544.8894
E-mail: admin@aumctustin.org
www.aumctustin.org
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Schedule

* Worship at 9am *
* Childcare provided for infants & toddlers starting at 8:30am
Christian Education for children offered after Children's Moment in worship *

ALDERSGATE MOTTO

"We're Here for Good"

Purpose:

To welcome, accept and equip our community to share Christ's love in meaningful service.

We are guided by these principles:

- **Faith grounded in Scripture**
- **Spiritual Curiosity**
- **Gratitude**
- **Inclusion**
- **Meaningful Relationships**
- **Accountability**
- **Love and Grace**
- **Prayer**